



MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

Caring for the Trees and Forests of Mississippi since 1926

Newsletter

Volume I, Issue I

January 2015

Holiday Schedule:

- ◆ New Year's Day 2015:
 - ◇ Thursday, January 1st
 - ◇ Friday, January 2nd
- ◆ Martin Luther King Jr. / Robert E. Lee's birth-day 2015:
 - ◇ Monday, January 19th

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“Using consumer fireworks on New Years is a tradition. And it can be safe if a few common sense rules are followed, says Nancy Blogin the President of the National Council on Fireworks Safety.”

- For a full list of fireworks safety tips and a safety video click [here](#).

The National Council on Fireworks Safety is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization whose sole mission is to educate the public on the safe and responsible use of consumer fireworks.

Fire Works Safety Tips

By the National Council on Fireworks Safety / Ralph Apel

Using consumer fireworks on New Years is a tradition. And it can be safe if a few common sense rules are followed, says Nancy Blogin the President of the National Council on Fireworks Safety. Consumer fireworks go through vigorous third party testing in China before being shipped to the United States. But she notes, consumers using legal fireworks must know how to use the fireworks before they ignite them. For many people, when legal to do so in their respective jurisdictions, they will use sparkling devices for the very first time so it is important that they take the time to read the cautionary labeling and use common sense. The National Council on Fireworks Safety offers these safety tips for using consumer fireworks and sparkling devices:

Know your fireworks; Read the cautionary labels and performance descriptions before igniting.

Have a designated shooter to organize your family show.

Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Save your alcohol for after the show.

Parents and caretakers should always closely supervise teens, if they are using fireworks.

Parents should not allow young children to handle or use fireworks.

Fireworks should only be used outdoors.

Always remain standing while using sparklers.

Never hold or light more than one sparkler at a time.

Sparkler wire and stick remain hot long after the flame has gone out. Be sure to drop the spent sparklers directly in a bucket of water.

Never throw sparklers.

Wear eye protection whenever using fireworks.

Never relight a “dud” firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.

Soak spent fireworks with water before placing them in an outdoor garbage can.

Never attempt to alter or modify consumer fireworks and use them only in the manner in which they were intended.



Report illegal explosives, like M-80s and quarter sticks, to the fire or police department.

The National Council on Fireworks Safety urges New Yorkers to follow common sense safety rules in their holiday celebrations. Above all, be certain that use of consumer fireworks is legal in your local jurisdiction before using them.



Click [here](#) to visit the USDA Forest Service website.

“The training taught us ways that we can effectively use hands on tools and resources to educate young people on climate change.”



Photo by Jay Boykin

To view the full list of award winners, click [here](#).

Back to Basics: Wood for Warmth

By Rebecca Wallace

For all of Forest Product Laboratory’s technological advances in wood science over the past century, the simple act of wood providing warmth and ambiance in fireplaces and wood stoves is still important. According to the USDA publication “Firewood for Your Fireplace,” choosing the best wood for your fire depends on several factors. You should consider what species are readily available to you, any personal preference you have as to aroma, and what type of

fire you want to build. Softwood species are easy to ignite and burn with a hot flame. However, they also burn rapidly and require frequent replenishing to stay lit. Softwood species are recommended if you’re looking to warm up with a short fire that will burn out quickly. For a longer lasting fire, hardwood species are a good choice. These woods burn less vigorously with a shorter flame and produce long-lasting, steady glowing coals. The ideal

fire, then, would be made with a mixture of softwood logs for easy ignition and hardwood logs for longevity. By adding wood from fruit trees (such as apple and cherry) or nut trees (such as hickory, beech, or pecan), your fire will also emit a pleasant aroma.

Click [here](#) to view a chart that outlines the characteristics of several species and may help you decide which wood to use the next time you’re looking to keep warm by the fire.

Partnership Announces Inaugural Wildfire Mitigation Awardees

By Amanda Cooke

Twenty One Individuals and Organizations Honored for Superlative Fire Protection Efforts in their Communities

WASHINGTON—The Wildfire Mitigation Awards Committee is pleased to announce the 2015 Wildfire Mitigation Award winners. Established in 2014, in response to an overwhelming number of great wildfire mitigation program efforts across the nation.

The Wildfire Mitigation Awards are the highest national honor one can receive for outstanding work and significant program impact in wildfire preparedness and mitigation.

The Wildfire Mitigation Awards are jointly sponsored by the National Associations of State Foresters (NASF), the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the USDA Forest Service.

The three categories for the awards include:

- Community Wildfire Preparedness Pioneer
- Fire Adapted Communities Fire Service Leadership
- Wildfire Mitigation Innovation

These awards are designed to recognize outstanding service in wildfire preparedness and

safety across a broad spectrum of activities and among a variety of individuals and organizations. By honoring their achievements, the award sponsors also seek to increase public recognition and awareness of the value of wildfire mitigation efforts.

Awards will be presented at the IAFC Wildland-Urban Interface Conference (WUI) in Reno, Nevada on Wednesday, March 25, 2015.

Media Contact: Amanda Cooke, National Association of State Foresters, at acooke@stateforesters.org or 202-624-5417.



Tree Knowledge: Who Am I?

Who Am I?

December:

Mimosa

Found on p.313 of
MS Trees Guide

- Click [here](#) for a link to the MS Trees Guide.

Leaves:

Type: odd-pinnately compound, opposite, deciduous
Size: 8.0" - 13.0" long; leaflets (5-9), 3.0" - 5.0" long, 1.5" - 3.0" wide
Margin: toothed or entire

Apex: acuminate

Base: rounded or

wedge shaped

Shape: oblong-

lanceolate

Color: dark green

above; paler green below

Surface: glabrous

above; slightly pubescent below

Venation: pinnate

Twigs:

Size: moderately stout

to stout

Color: dark green to

gray-brown

Surface: flattened at

node; large pale lenticels;

narrow concave leaf

scars partly surrounding

bud; numerous bundle

scars

Buds:

Size: large; laterals

much smaller

Shape: rounded or

blunt

Color: dark brown to

brownish black

Surface: 4-8 scales

Fruit and Flowers:

Samara: single, in clus-

ters

Size: 1.0" - 2.0" long;

0.25" wide

Shape: oblong to spatulate

Color: pale brown

Flower: dioecious; apet-

alous; in dense

panicles; staminate, green,

purplish anthers,

0.25" long; pistillate, 2

spreading, dark purple

stigmatic lobes

Physical Attributes:

Form:

single stem

Size: 90.0', mature

Growth Rate: moderate;

40.0' maximum @ 20

yrs

Life Span: moderate

(>50 yrs)

Tolerances:

Shade: intolerant

Drought: low

Fire: medium

Anaerobic: none

Propagation: seed (cold

stratification required);

bare root; container

Other: resprout/coppice

potential

Habitat and Ecology:

Site: rich, moist, well-

drained soils in uplands

and bottom lands near

streams

Soil Texture: fine -

coarse

Soil pH: 5.0 - 7.5

Range: Nova Scotia; south

to northern Florida;

west to eastern Texas;

north to eastern

Minnesota; in Mississippi,

throughout except the

Mississippi River Delta

counties

Wildlife Value & Uses:

seeds are eaten

by wood duck, bob white,

purple finch, pine

grosbeak and fox squirrel;

medium palatability

as browse; rabbit, beaver,

and porcupine

occasionally eat the bark;

often used as a cavity

tree by nesting birds

Timber Value and Uses:

high value as

fuel wood, lumber, and

nursery stock

Landscaping Info:

suitable for a yard or street

tree; fall color is not

showy, but the tree form is

nice for landscaping; will

tolerate a variety of soil

textures; sensitive to air

pollution, particularly

ozone and sulfur dioxide

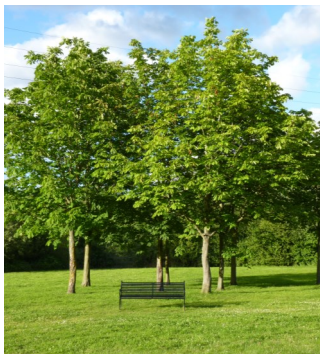
Who Am I?



Photo by Jayne

Click [here](#) to view the full article.

“Are you good with plant or tree identification? Testing your kids' knowledge with an impromptu pop question or quiz is a fun way to keep young minds engaged.”



Click [here](#) for more information on the Prescribed Burning Short Course.

Nurture Kids with Nature, Even in Winter

By Cynthia Orlando

While it can be tempting to keep kids occupied with computers and electronic games, research shows both children and adults reap substantial health benefits from regular outdoor activities and interacting with nature.

True, there are some days when staying indoors seems like the wisest course. But most of the time we can bundle up, venture out, and find something beautiful in nature to engage us.

Here are a few activities your whole family can enjoy this season:

Feeding the birds

Help the birds make it through winter by providing homemade treats. Collect a few pinecones, roll them in peanut butter, then sprinkle with birdseed. Hang them on trees and outside a popular window where you can watch bird activity. Also, remember birds get thirsty in the winter, too; place water outside when you can.

Winter walk

Take the kids on a stroll through a park or around your neighborhood and talk about all the signs of winter: trees that lose their leaves, ice forming on branches, squirrels collecting nuts, birds flying south and so on. Look for signs of bird and animal life and bring the camera along for a photo or two — it's activities like these that create family memories.

Holiday décor

Head outdoors with the kids to gather evergreen branches and pinecones for a wreath. You can find a base for your wreath at most craft stores. Attach small bulbs or a bell and use a twisty-tie for the hanger. Painted or glittery pinecones can also make great tree decorations.

Twigs and trees

Pick short branches, twigs or cones from several trees in your yard and see if the kids can figure out which cone or twig goes with which tree. Then ask everyone to name their favorite tree, and to ex-

plain why.

Neighborhood stroll

Have the kids help you make a list of five or 10 things found in nature before going for a walk. Then take a stroll through your neighborhood and have fun checking off the items and seeing trees, berries, plants and the natural world through the eyes of a child. See who finds all the items first and then let that person start a new list.

Take a hike

Get hearts pumping with a little exercise on a path or trail close to town. Remember to check weather forecasts and dress accordingly, and bring snacks, water, a cell phone and a camera, too.

Are you good with plant or tree identification? Testing your kids' knowledge with an impromptu pop question or quiz is a fun way to keep young minds engaged. Choosing parks or local hiking trails you've been to before is a good idea, as it allows the opportunity to observe seasonal changes, birds, and animal tracks.

Prescribed Burning Short Courses 2015

April 14-16th, 2015

Hilton Garden Inn
975 Highway 12 East
Starkville, MS

Cost: \$250

October 6-8th, 2015

Pearl River Community College
Woodall Technology Center

906 Sullivan Drive
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Cost: \$250

Please contact Jeff Ware (MFC Safety/ Training Director) for more information.

Phone:
662-401-8067

Email:
jware@mfc.state.ms.us



Photo by NASF

Mapping Our Future

By Brian Mitchell

“Many people outside of our state do not realize that Mississippi has long been on the forefront of geospatial technology. In fact, Colorado and Mississippi are generally recognized as the two most advanced states in this respect.”

Location is relevant to most everything we do at the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC). We actively manage over a half million acres of public land and provide land management assistance on well over a half million additional acres of private lands. We have statewide wildfire prevention and suppression responsibilities and statewide forest health management responsibilities as well. Given this wide diversity of resources, stakeholders and objectives, and the importance of where these things occur, we leverage geospatial technologies, including global positioning systems (GPS), geographic information systems (GIS) and remote sensing, to help meet our demands.

Geospatial technologies are a highly specialized, rapidly evolving and incredibly powerful suite of information technologies that are becoming a regular part of everyday life. To the point of which I often wonder how we ever did without them. Today I can't imagine navigating the vast labyrinth of marshes along our coasts or through the deep forests and back without GPS. I wonder now if I could actually plan an entire week without consulting the GIS-powered weather apps on my smartphone. Would I starve to death in an unfamiliar city without GIS-enabled apps like Yelp and Urban Spoon? Perhaps most importantly, could I find gas for my state vehicle without my handy Fuel Man app? I'm

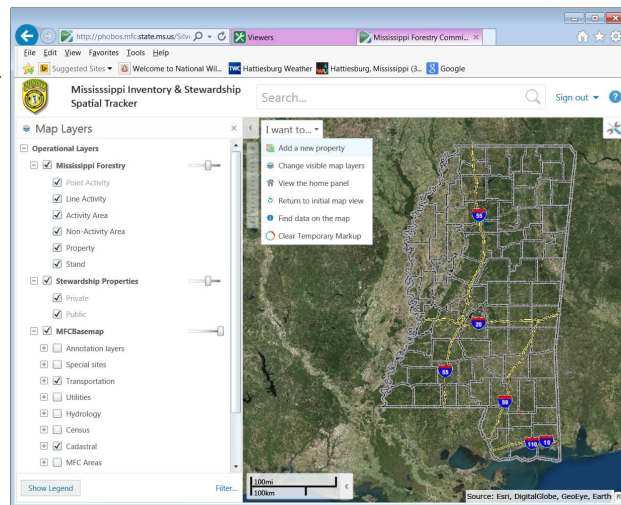
sure I would survive like the generations before me, but I'm happy to have this “geospatial advantage”. Many people outside of our state don't realize that Mississippi has long been on the forefront of geospatial technology. In fact, Colorado and Mississippi are generally recognized as the two most advanced states in this respect. Mississippi's Stennis Space

Center is NASA's lead center for earth sciences driving related technology development. Colorado's Schriever AFB (formerly Falcon AFB) takes the lead

militarily. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of MFC employees like Buck Buchanan, Van Crump, and Josh Skidmore our agency has taken a lead role as well being an early adopter and actually helping revolutionize how forest inventories are conducted.

During 2015 we will see some expectedly welcomed changes in our use of geospatial technologies that will help continue the MFC's tradition of being on the forefront. The primary purposes for leveraging geospatial tools are to provide the best information possible to make the best decisions possible and to

maximize the accuracy and efficiency of our work. That requires that we continually strive to make the best possible tools available to our team. Fundamental shifts we will initiate this year will be to move away from disconnected individual Desktop GIS licenses dispersed throughout the state with locally stored data that has to be uploaded monthly and compiled before analyzing



at the state level. We will move toward Web-based GIS applications that feed centralized databases and provide real time access to state level information. Instead of having one cumbersome Desktop GIS application that serves all, we will focus on developing intuitive workflow-driven and business-centric GIS applications to meet specific needs. We will also focus on increasing the level of support in each district freeing up valuable time for field personnel. For questions or comments regarding our GIS Program, please contact Brian Mitchell at (601) 624-4290 or email bmitchell@mfc.state.ms.us

In Memoriam



***“Brenda Hamm was a longtime MFC Employee. First she worked as a Smith County Dispatcher and then a South Central Office Dispatcher.”
-Faye Pippen***

Brenda Gail Hamm, 62 of Bay Springs, MS, died Friday, December 19, 2014 at her residence in Bay Springs, MS. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 A.M., on Tuesday, December 23, 2014 at Colonial Chapel Funeral Home Of Bay Springs. Rev. Steve Pouncey will officiate the services. Burial will be in Mt. Nebo Cemetery. Colonial Chapel Funeral Home of Bay Springs, MS is in charge of arrangements. 601-764-2181.

Visitation will be held on Monday, December 22, 2014 from 5:00-8:00 P.M. at Colonial

Chapel Funeral Home Of Bay Springs.

She was a member of the Raleigh Church of God. She enjoyed many activities including working in her yard and other outdoor interests. She also loved traveling and cooking for her family and friends. She will be sadly missed by her family and her many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Edward B. Strickland and Julia Frances Woodcock Strickland and her husband James Hamm.

She is survived by her son Shamus L. Hamm of Bay Springs, her daughter Brandon L. Williams of Bay Springs, her brother James Strickland of Laurel, and four grandchildren, McKinia Rogers, Kadence Conn, Atlee Hamm and Tyla Hamm.

Pallbearers for the service are Tony Ainsworth, Mason McCarty, Chad Bounds, Josh Sharpley, Donald Brown and Michael McCullum.

Personnel News

- Russell Bozeman (Director of Forest Protection and Information) and his wife Chaffin welcomed a baby girl, Bonny Clare Bozeman—6lbs 4oz and 20” long,
- Sympathy to Donald Pryor during this difficult time.
- George Pitts retired, effective December 31st
- Thomas Gunn will be retiring, effective January 31st

WELCOME!

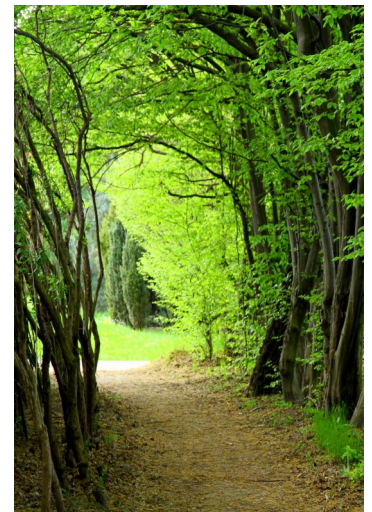
- Cory Nettles
- Dallante Arrington
- Grant Lovato
- Joseph Peavey
- Joshua Raines
- Marc Krider
- Mark Murphy
- Roger Wroten

Moving On

- William Harrold
- Larry Brown
- Duane Henry Hodges
- Jackson Hill



NASF 2014 Annual Report





“Winter driving can be hazardous and scary, especially in northern regions that get a lot of snow and ice. Additional preparations can help make a trip safer, or help motorists deal with an emergency.”

- Click [here](#) to view the source article.
- Click [here](#) to visit the OSHA website for more safety tips.

Safe Winter Driving

Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA)

Winter driving can be hazardous and scary, especially in northern regions that get a lot of snow and ice. Additional preparations can help make a trip safer, or help motorists deal with an emergency. This sheet provides safety information for your residents to help prevent motor vehicle injuries due to winter storms.

The Three P's of Safe Winter Driving:

PREPARE for the trip; PROTECT yourself; and PREVENT crashes on the road.

PREPARE:

Maintain Your Car:

Check battery, tire tread, and windshield wipers, keep your windows clear, put no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir, and check your antifreeze.

Have On Hand: flashlight, jumper cables, abrasive material (sand, kitty litter, even floor mats), shovel, snow brush and ice scraper, warning devices (like flares) and blankets. For long trips, add food and water, medication and cell phone.

Stopped or Stalled? Stay with your car, don't over

exert, put bright markers on antenna or windows and shine dome light, and, if you run your car, clear exhaust pipe and run it just enough to stay warm.

Plan Your Route: Allow plenty of time (check the weather and leave early if necessary), be familiar with the maps/directions, and let others know your route and arrival time.

Practice Cold Weather Driving!

During daylight, rehearse maneuver slowly on the ice or snow in an empty lot.

Steer into a skid.

Know what your brakes will do: stomp on antilock brakes, pump non-antilock brakes.

Stopping distances are longer on water covered ice and ice. Don't idle for a long time with the windows up or in an enclosed space.

PROTECT YOURSELF:

Buckle up and use child safety seats properly. Never place a rear-facing infant seat in front of an air bag

Children 12 and under are much safer in the back seat

PREVENT CRASHES:



Photo by Caitlin Forrest

Drugs and alcohol never mix with driving.

Slow down and increase distances between cars.

Keep your eyes open for pedestrians walking in the road.

Avoid fatigue – Get plenty of rest before the trip, stop at least every three hours, and rotate drivers if possible.

If you are planning to drink, designate a sober driver.





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www.mfc.ms.gov

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on Facebook!

The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal employment opportunities and services to all individuals regardless of disability, race, age, religion, color, gender, national origin, or political affiliation.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



January 2015
Newsletter

Our Mission

The Mississippi Forestry Commission is proud of its service to the public and its protection of the state's valuable forest resource. Committed to delivering quality services and assistance to both rural and urban landowners, the Forestry Commission looks forward to the continued privilege of caring for Mississippi's trees and forests. **Serving Mississippi Since 1926.**

Our Mission is to provide active leadership in forest protection, forest management, forest inventory and effective forest information distribution, necessary for Mississippi's sustainable forest-based economy.

